

Madame Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Since we are unable to attend this important public hearing on House Bill #6645 (An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill), we are sending our testimony in support of this bill. We have supported the "Death with Dignity" concept and organizations that speak for it for many years because we strongly believe in this basic human right.

Such a bill in no way would coerce an individual to choose this option, but instead would permit anyone to freely make this choice. We have witnessed too many times the pain and suffering of both the patient and family which need not have been if this option had been available. The key word here is "compassion" and surely everyone should be able to support that.

Sincerely,

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